

Remarks

Claims 1, 5-6, 8-12 and 22-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1 recites the limitation "A composite wrap material for wrapping a ream of paper, the wrap material consisting of: a first inner layer...; a second outer layer...; an adhesive layer...; a ream of paper; said composite wrap material wrapped around said ream of paper." Considering the claims are directed to "A composite wrap material" wherein the wrap material is "for wrapping a ream of paper", it is unclear how the wrap material can consist of the ream of paper as recited. From the limitations added in the amended claim, it appears as if the Applicant's intent is to claim the wrapped ream of paper and not the composite wrap. However, considering the claims still recite "A composite wrap material", it appears as if the limitations with regards to the ream of paper and the positioning of the wrap material about the ream of paper constitute intended use of the claimed wrap material and are not part of the claimed structure of the wrap material. Hence, it is unclear what invention the Applicant is claiming.

Applicant has amended the claims to claim a wrapped ream of paper.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 10, and 22-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Peterson et al (USPN 3,862,869) Peterson et al teach a polyolefin-paper laminate comprising a paper base sheet, such as bleached paper, glassine paper on kraft paper, with a preferred basis weight of from 25 pounds per 3,000 sq. ft. upward to 100 pounds per ream; laminated to a performed, oriented polyolefin film via a hot

melt polyolefin adhesive layer, wherein the polyolefins may be polypropylene, polyethylene or copolymers thereof (Abstract; Col. 2, lines 4-68; Col. 3, lines 3-23; Examples; Claims.)

Amended claim 1 requires a wrapped ream of paper, which consists of a ream of paper with a composite wrap material wrapped around said ream of paper. Peterson teaches a reusable polyolefin paper structure, which can be used in corn plasters, and bunion patches. The structure creates a pressure sensitive tape assembly having released paper that is reusable. The claims of the invention are not anticipated or obvious over Peterson because Peterson does not teach a wrapped ream of paper wherein a composite wrap material wraps around the ream of paper.

Claims 1, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 22-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated, by Eberl (USPN 3,010,860.) Eberl teaches a composite packaging material comprising a wax paper having a ream weight of from 16 to 25 pounds, laminated to a synthetic resin film which may be preformed and is preferably a polyolefin such as polypropylene, wherein upon heating an interfacial commingling layer of the polyolefin and the wax is produced and serves as an adhesive layer to laminate the two (Col. 2, lines 10-57; Col. 3, lines 3-64.)

Claim 1 has been amended so that the claims require a wrapped ream of paper consisting of a ream of paper wherein said composite wrap material is wrapped around the ream of paper. Further claim 1 requires a specific set of adhesives which were previously included in claim 8. Eberl does not teach or make obvious a composite wrap material wrapped around a ream of paper. Further Eberl teaches using wax as the

adhesive. It does not teach or make obvious the adhesives now claimed in claim 1.

Therefore the above claims are not anticipated or obvious over Eberl.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 8-12 and 22-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Finestone et al (USPN 5,244,702) for the reasons recited in the prior office action and restated below, wherein the Examiner notes that the instant claims are directed to the composite wrap material and not the wrapped ream of paper and hence the limitations with respect to "inner" and "outer" recited in Claim 1 and the positional limitations recited in Claims 22-23 constitute intended use and do not provide any patentable weight with respect to the composite.

Finestone et al teach a paper-plastic laminate sheet capable of being converted by conventional equipment into envelopes, grocery bags, and other dilatable container products that initially are in a flat state and are normally made of paper and wherein the products produced are waterproof and the paper facing has an affinity for standard printing inks (Abstract; Col. 2, lines 10-26.) The laminate consists of a paper facing sheet laminated via an adhesive layer to a reinforcing film of oriented polymer such as polypropylene wherein the paper may be of any gauge, weight and quality as appropriate to the end use for which the sheeting is intended such as unbleached Kraft paper, white or colored paper or coated paper (Abstract; Col. 2, lines 66-Col. 3, line 9). The adhesive layer is preferably a water-based polyacrylate copolymer adhesive or any other water-based adhesive having similar bonding properties and having an affinity both for the paper sheet and the plastic film wherein hot melt adhesives would diminish the reinforcing characteristics of the film (Col. 3, lines 28-38). Finestone et al do not

teach that the paper has a basis weight of 20-60 lb/3000 sq ft as instantly claimed, however, Finestone et al do teach that the basis weight may be selected to be appropriate for a particular end use and that the laminate is suitable for products typically produced from flat paper materials, hence, given that ream wrap material is a typical product produced from flat paper materials, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to determine the optimum basis weight based on the particular end use wherein basis weights within the instantly claimed range are known for producing ream wrap materials. Further, Finestone et al does not specifically teach adhesives as instantly claimed or metallization of the plastic film or the paper sheet, however, one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to provide a conventional metallized layer to improve barrier properties of the packaging laminate as is well known in the art and to further select from conventional adhesives utilized to bond paper and polymer layers such as those instantly claimed in producing the laminate taught by Finestone et al. In terms of instant Claim 10, the Examiner notes that though Finestone et al teaches away from utilizing heat when producing the laminate, the limitation "hot melt adhesive" is a process limitation wherein the adhesive layer in the final film is not actually hot. Therefore, considering the polyacrylate copolymer taught by Finestone et al as suitable in water-based form may also be characterized as a "hot melt adhesive" in other applications and considering the "hot" limitation is a process limitation, the Examiner takes the position that the invention taught by Finestone et al reads upon the final product of Claim 10 considering the final products appear to be the same.

Applicant has amended the claims so that the claims require a wrapped ream of paper wherein said composite wrap material is wrapped around the ream of paper. The claim has further been amended to require specific adhesives to be used in the adhesive layer. The examiner has stated that Finestone does not teach the adhesives that are claimed and in fact teaches water-based adhesives. Further Finestone does not teach or make obvious a wrapped ream of paper having the composite wrap material wrapped around the ream of paper. Further the limitations with respect to the ream of paper and the positioning of the wrapper material are now applicable based on the amendments. Therefore the above claims are not obvious over Finestone.

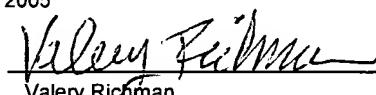
Applicant believes the application is now in condition for allowance.

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